Besides interest on its fixed deposit, the Central Haj Committee generated the following income during the last three years:—

Year	Pilgrim Pass Registration Fee	Haj House Donations
1991-92	Rs. 17,87,780.00	Rs. 29,80,400.00
1992-93	Rs. 24,58,400.00	Rs. 32,76,950.00
1993-94	Rs. 25,19,400.00	Rs. 34,32,600.00

Demarcation of Maritime Boundaries with Pakistan and Bangladesh

2873. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the bilateral negotiations on demarcation of maritime boundaries with Pakistan in the Arabian Sea and with Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the exact status of negotiations; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the conclusion of agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): BANGLADESH: (a) Indo-Bangladesh talks on demarcation of maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal were first held in November 1974. The last round of talks was held in August 1982. Despite these talks, no substantial progress has been achieved so far.

(b) The matter is pursued through diplomatic channels in order to seek resumption of the above mentioned talks.

(c) No agreement has been concluded because of divergent approaches and viewpoints of the two sides.

PAKISTAN: (a) to (c) We have held five rounds of discussions with Pakistan with a view to demarcating the India-Pakistan maritime boundary in the Sir Creek area. The last round of talks on the issue were held at New Delhi on 5-6 November, 1992 during which the two sides had a detailed exchange of views. However, the differences in the interpretation of the boundary in the Sir Creek area persist.

Government have since conveyed to Pakistan certain constructive and specific suggestions which can form the basis of a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue on the issue.

South Africa seeks India's assistance in skilled/professional manpower

2874. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Government of South Africa has approached the Government for assistance in respect of skilled/professional manpower, mechineries etc. from India for their developmental schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The Government is discussing various aspects of bilateral cooperation with the Government of South Africa. The Government of India has offered technical and other assistance to the new South African Government.

Foreign countries to persuade Pakistan to solve disputes bilaterally

2875. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any requests to some foreign countries to persuade Pakistan to work towards a bilaterally negotiated settlement to the outstanding issues between the two countries including Kashmir instead of internationalising the issues; and

(b) if so, the names of such countries and their reaction thereto?